

UNCLASSIFIED

NAVAL MESSAGE
DEPT OF NAVY

PRIORITY

ZYUW RUCBSGG2361 1030350

P 130042Z APR 90 ZYB

FM COMSUBLANT NORFOLK VA//009//

TO SUBLANT

CNO WASHINGTON DC//00/02//

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA//00/NO2P//

COMSUBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI//00//

UNCLAS//NO00000//

SUBJ: DECOMMISSIONING OF USS SKIPJACK (SSN 585)

1. FOLLOWING MORE THAN 31 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE NATION AND THE NAVY, USS SKIPJACK WILL LEAVE THE SUBMARINE FORCE ON 19 APRIL IN DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONIES AT NORFOLK NAVAL STATION'S PIER 23.

2. CONTINUING THE PROUD TRADITION OF THE FIRST USS SKIPJACK (E-1), COMMISSIONED BY THEN - LT. CHESTER W. NIMITZ IN FEBRUARY OF 1912, SSN 585 WILL LEAVE AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF FIRSTS. USS SKIPJACK (SSN 585) REVOLUTIONIZED SUBMARINE WARFARE WITH THE MARRIAGE OF NUCLEAR POWER TO THE HYDRODYNAMICALLY SUPERIOR ALBACORE HULL SHAPE. AMONG HER NOTEWORTHY FIRSTS INCLUDE A STANDING RECORD OF BEING THE WORLD'S FASTEST SUBMARINE (A RECORD NOT BEATEN UNTIL THE ADVENT OF THE LOS ANGELES CLASS); FIRST NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP TO PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR IN 1959; AND THE FASTEST SUBMERGED ATLANTIC TRANSIT IN 1962.

3. LIKE HER PREDECESSOR, USS SKIPJACK (SS-184) WHOSE REMARKABLE 10 WAR PATROLS DURING WORLD WAR II RESULTED IN THE LOSS OR DAMAGE OF OVER 66,000 TONS OF ENEMY SHIPPING, SSN-585 HAS BEEN A READY WEAPON OF WAR AS EVIDENCED BY THE AWARD OF A NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION IN 1960 AND FROM THE COVETED "BATTLE EFFICIENCY 'E'" IN 1960, 1964, 1965 AND 1978.

4. UNDER THE CAPABLE LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE OF 13 COMMANDING OFFICERS, CDR W. W. BEHRENS JR.; LCDR L. D. KELLY; LCDR S. M. JENKS; LCDR P. D. TOMB; LCDR J. R. DEVEREAUX JR.; CDR R. B. PIRIE JR.; CDR G. R. STUBBS; CDR G. R. PLATH; CDR R. J. PETERSEN; CDR D. L. WITZENBURG; CDR C. E. ELLIS; CDR L. D. MEIER AND CURRENT COMMANDING OFFICER CDR B. C. GREEN, USS SKIPJACK STEAMED OVER ONE MILLION NAUTICAL MILES, AND SERVED AS AN AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL DURING PORT VISITS TO 22 COUNTRIES. USS SKIPJACK CLEARLY DESERVED HER MOTTO "RADIX NOVA TRIDENTIS," MEANING "ROOT OF THE NEW SEA POWER," AS SHE CONDUCTED EIGHT DEPLOYMENTS TO THE SIXTH FLEET, AND DEPLOYED FOR SEVEN NATO EXERCISES, FOUR SOUTH AMERICAN UNITAS OPERATIONS, AND NUMEROUS FLEET EXERCISES.

5. TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED ONBOARD USS SKIPJACK, OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION IS EXTENDED TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. YOUR PERSONAL SACRIFICE, VIGILANCE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE.

6. BEST WISHES AND MANY THANKS ON A JOB EXTREMELY WELL DONE.

7. VADM BACON SENDS.

// BT

CNO WASH DC

ACTION 00(1)

INFO

SN(6) OOS(1) 09(1) 09B(1) 09BH(2) 09B2(1) 08(1)
80(2) 82(7) 01B(2) 11(1) 12(2) 02(1) 21(5) 22(5)
03(2) 03P(1) 30(1) 32(2) 37(4) 39(5) 43(2) 55(2)
60(4) 64(1) 094(1) 941H(2) 09C(6) 09G(1) 092W(1)
INSURV(1) OLA(7) NCC(1) SC(1)

ADV
(U,F)

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